

Micro-50 Survey Results

October 14 – 18, 2017

Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

<http://www.microarch.org/micro50>

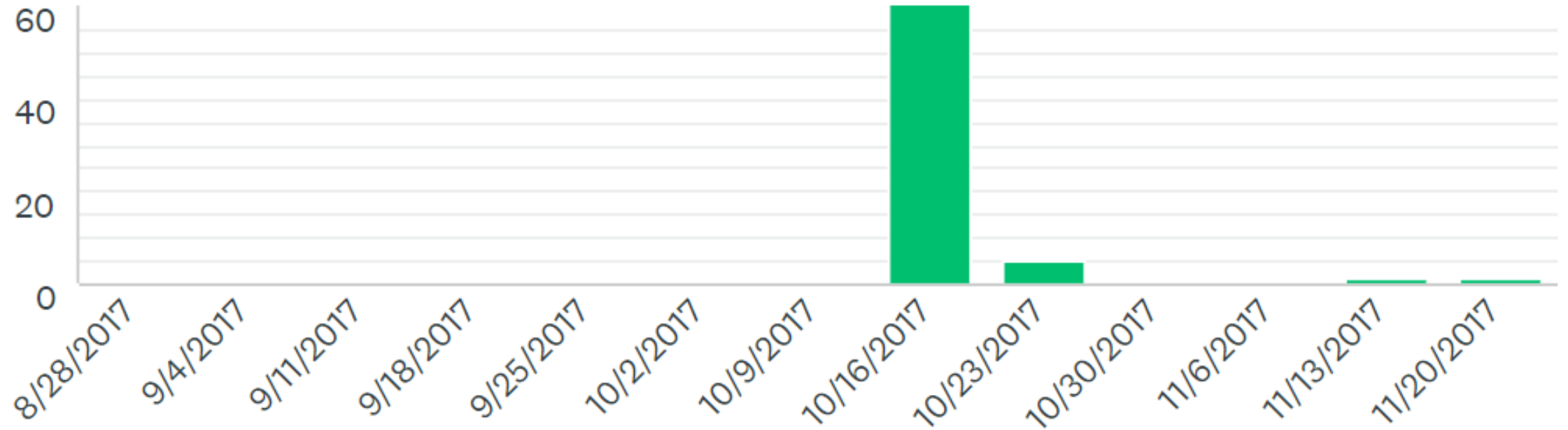
Survey Questions

1. What was your overall impression of MICRO?
2. What was your impression of the MICRO Workshops and Tutorials?
3. What was your impression of the poster session?
4. How were the opportunities to network at Micro-50?
5. What was your impression of the Hyatt Regency Hotel for conference activities?
6. What was your impression of the Monday social events: Boston Aquarium, Evening Panel, etc?
7. What was your view of Boston / Cambridge as a venue for Micro?
8. Divergent views have been expressed recently about conference reviewing.
What most closely matches your view?
9. What is the most important idea to emerge in microarchitecture since 2000?
10. Please provide any other comments

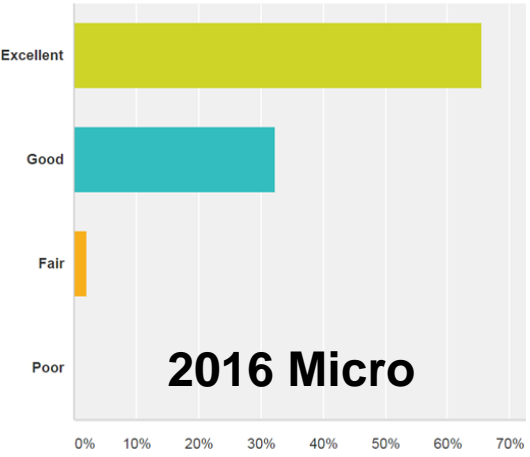
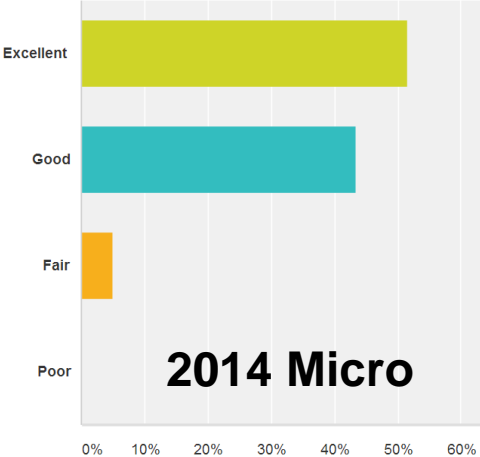
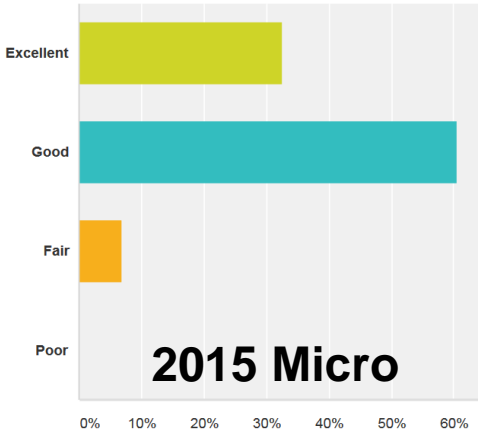
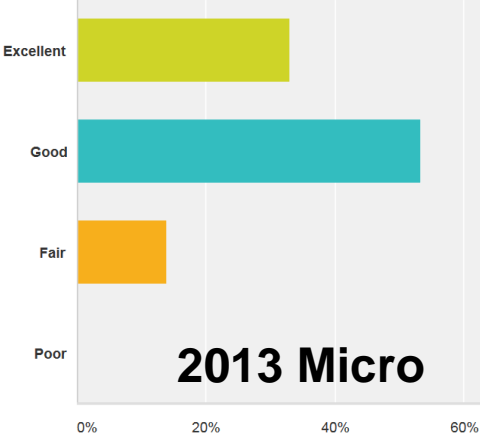
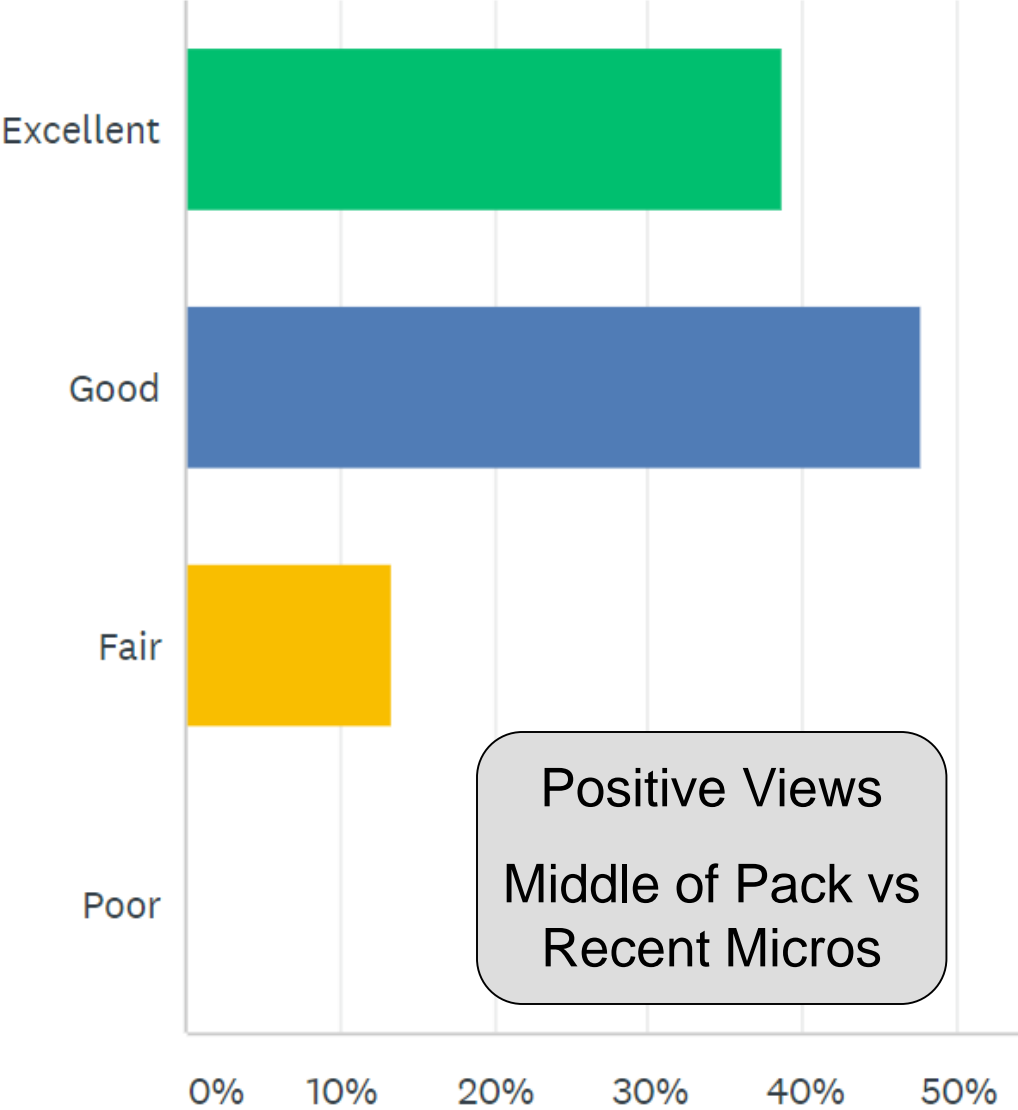
Broad Themes in Responses

1. Good or excellent view of conference from most attendees.
2. Some concerns about proximity to restaurants and nightlife.
3. Some concerns about vegetarian food.
4. A number of people commented on the diversity issues discussed prominently.
5. The Monday outing had an 80% favorable rating, but a number of comments critiqued that panel and “Legends of Micro”.
6. No consensus on how to best review Micro papers.
7. Most important microarchitecture ideas since 2000:
 - Heterogeneity, GPUs, Branch prediction improvements

Survey Response over Time



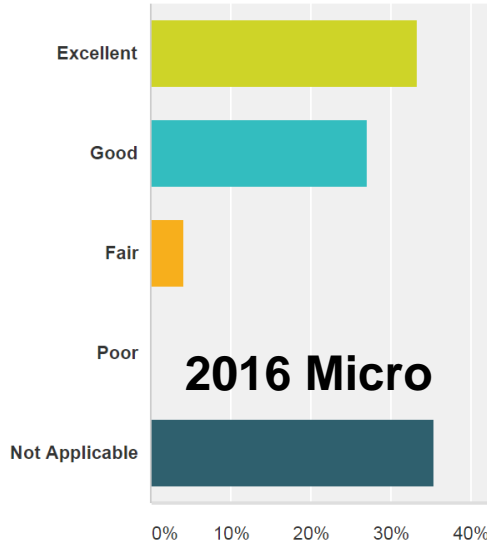
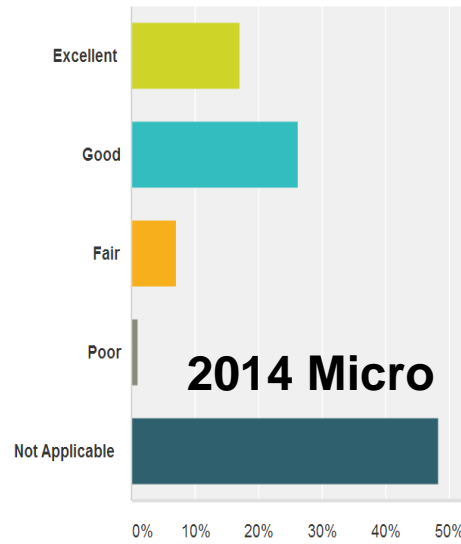
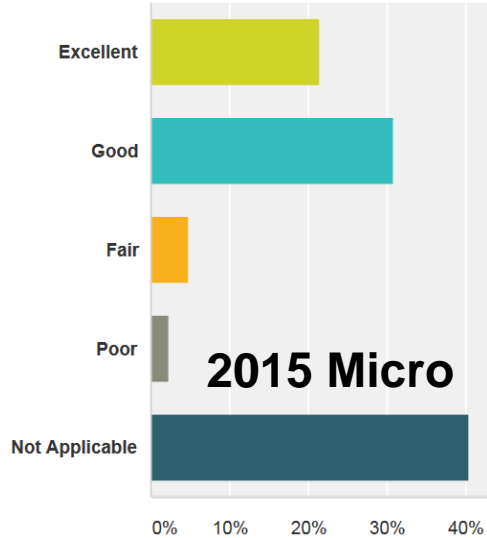
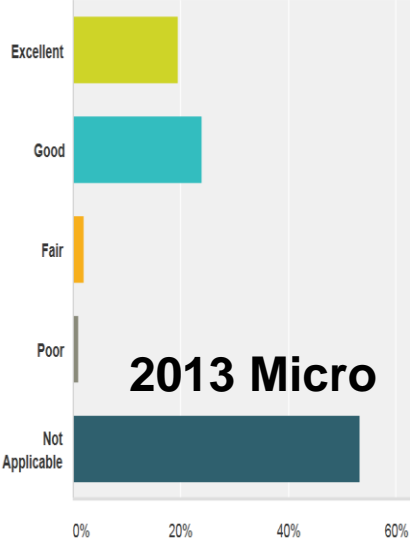
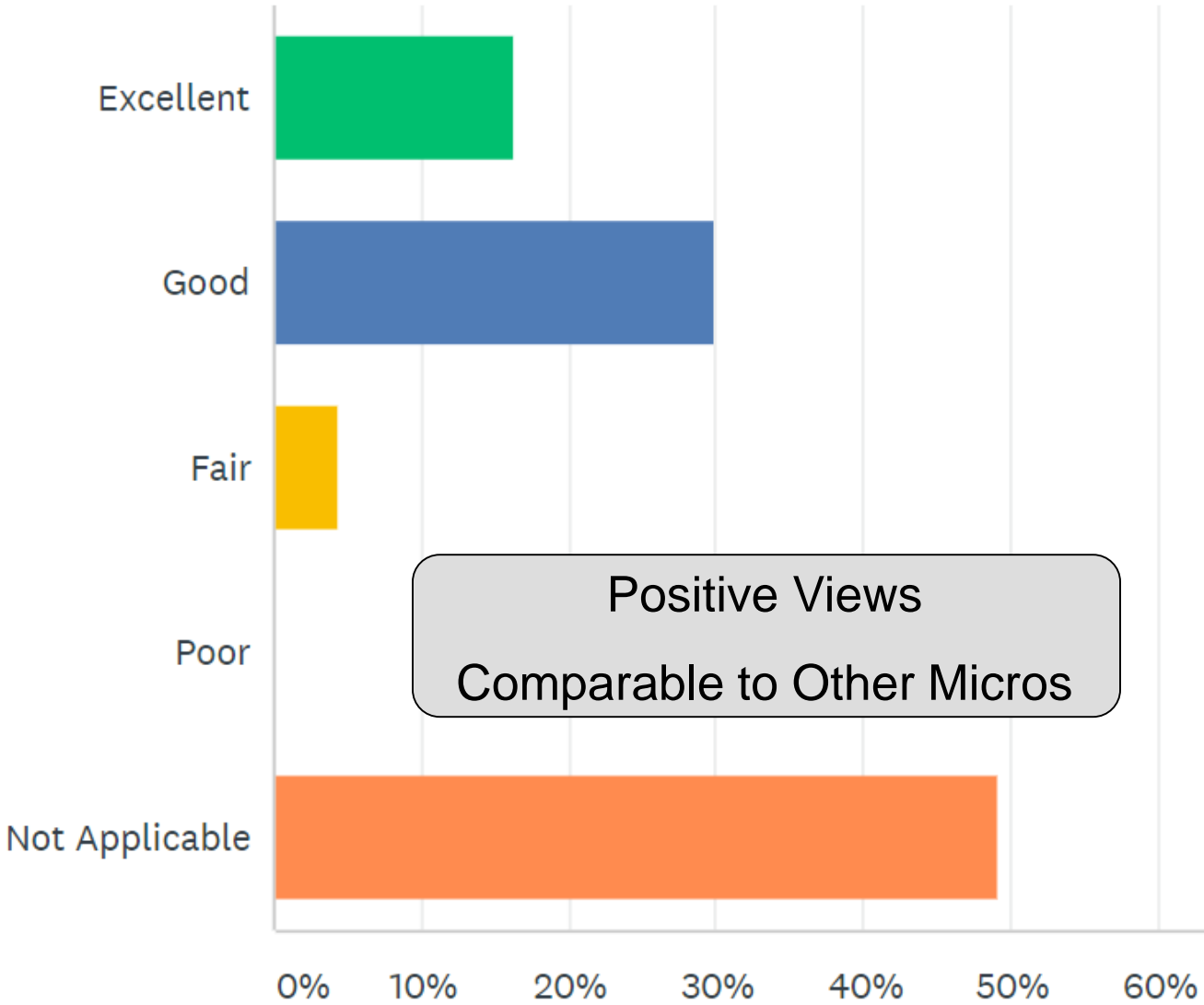
1. Overall Impression of Micro



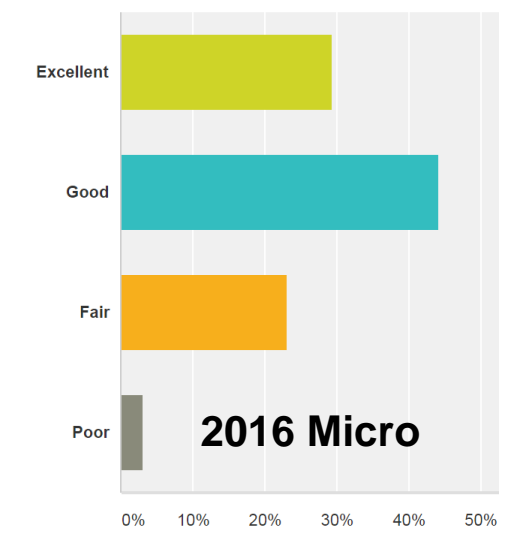
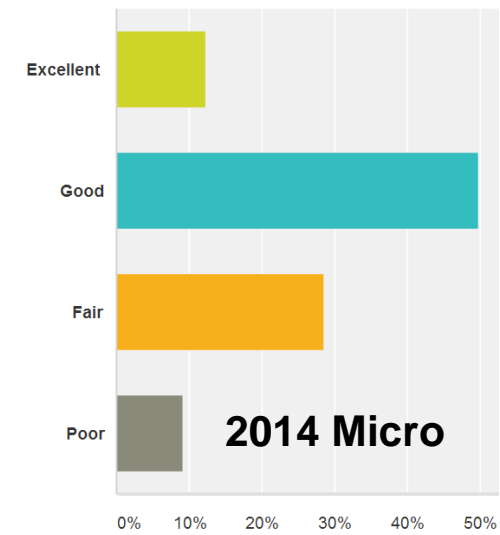
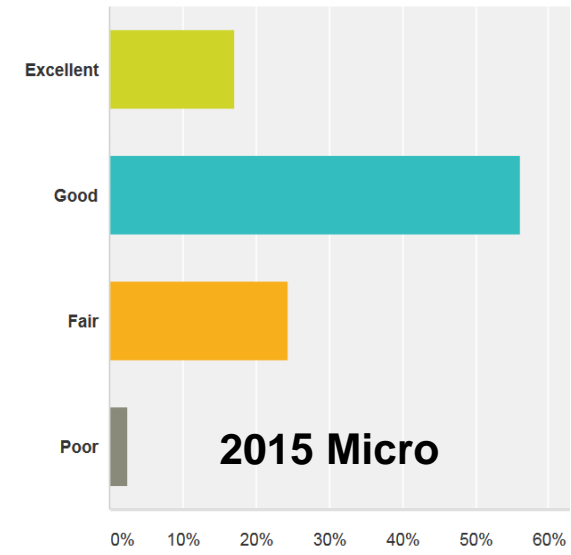
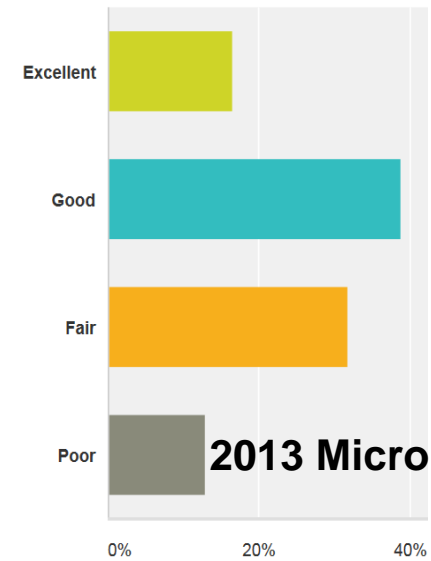
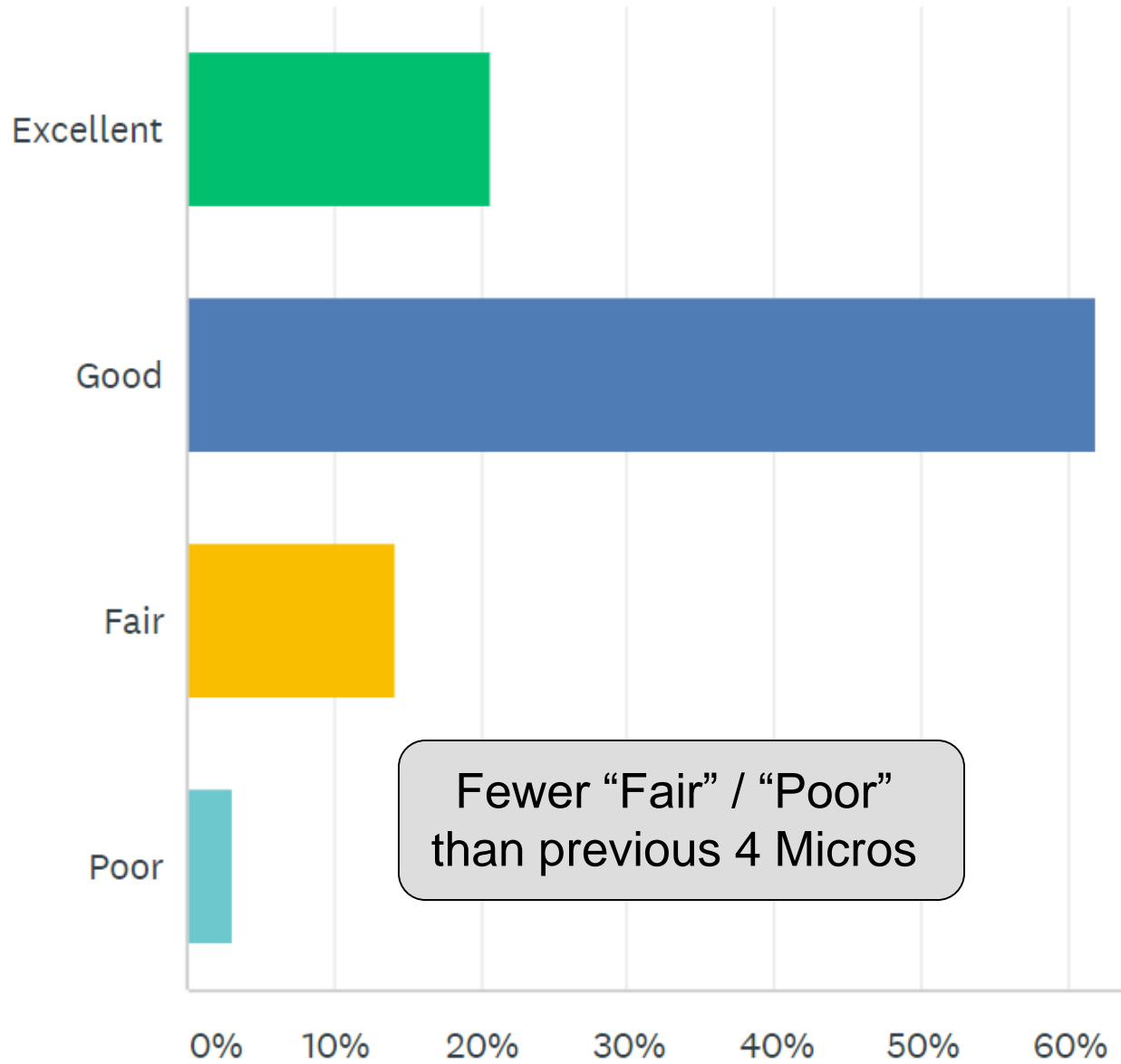
1. Overall Impression of Micro – Comments

1. Jackets were nice
2. Some excellent talks, some fair talks. I did not enjoy "Legends of MICRO".
The lack of gender diversity (and near lack of racial diversity) across keynotes and panelists was appalling as you're well aware.
3. Leave the politics home
4. Papers were not very exciting and the keynotes were downright disappointing.
(The first one was nearly content-free and the second one most of us had heard before.)
5. Audio in the conference rooms was a little bit low.
6. The quality of the meals (apart from breakfast) could have been better.

2. Workshops and Tutorials



3. Poster Session



3. Poster Session

1. Always great to have more opportunities to interact with the students.
2. Poster sessions are silly. Stop having them.
3. too short. failed to check out 5 posters
4. Could have been longer, or let the posters stay up for longer.
5. It was probably too short. I would have preferred another poster session.
6. Maybe have several parallel sessions or during the coffee breaks with fewer posters at the time. That said the current organization was excellent as well.
7. Too crowded
8. The session could have been better organized with assigned stations and better instructions.
9. I did attend.

Opposite
philosophical
views

Duration

Organization

Other

4. Networking Opportunities

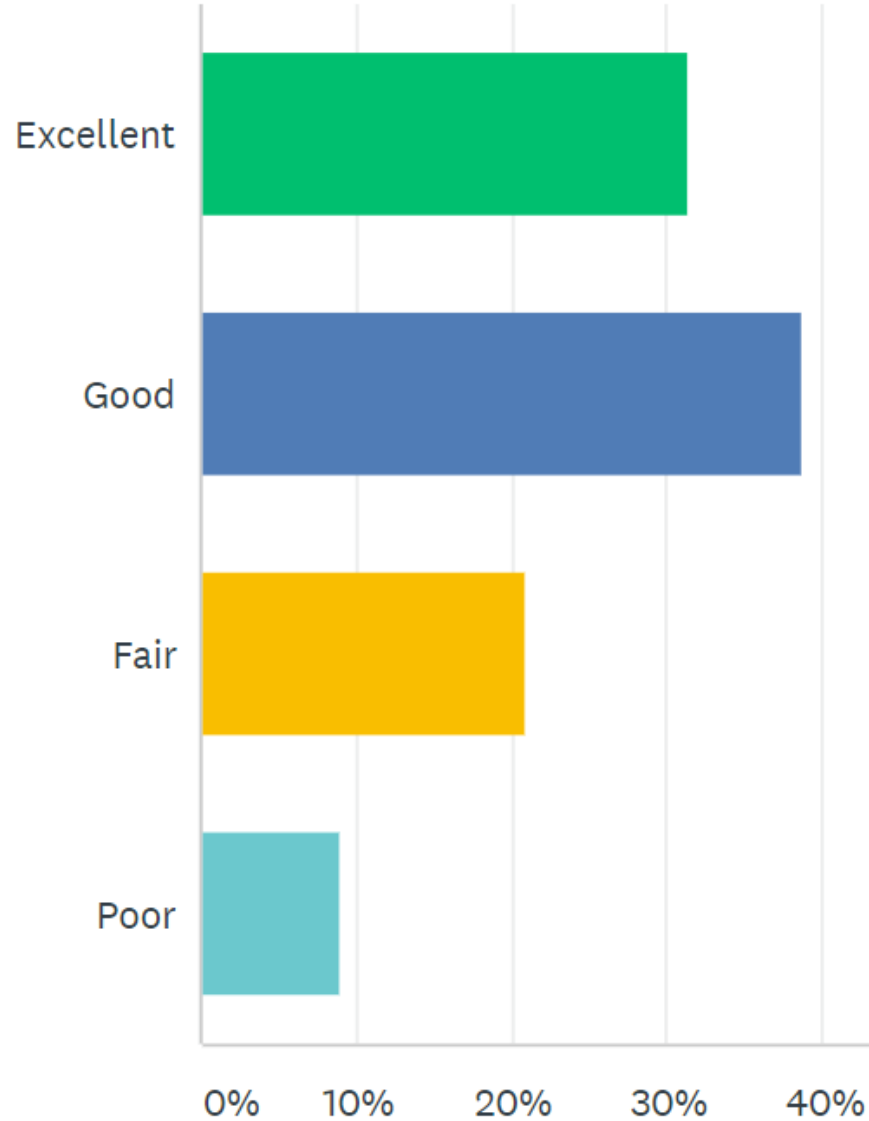


4. Networking Opportunities

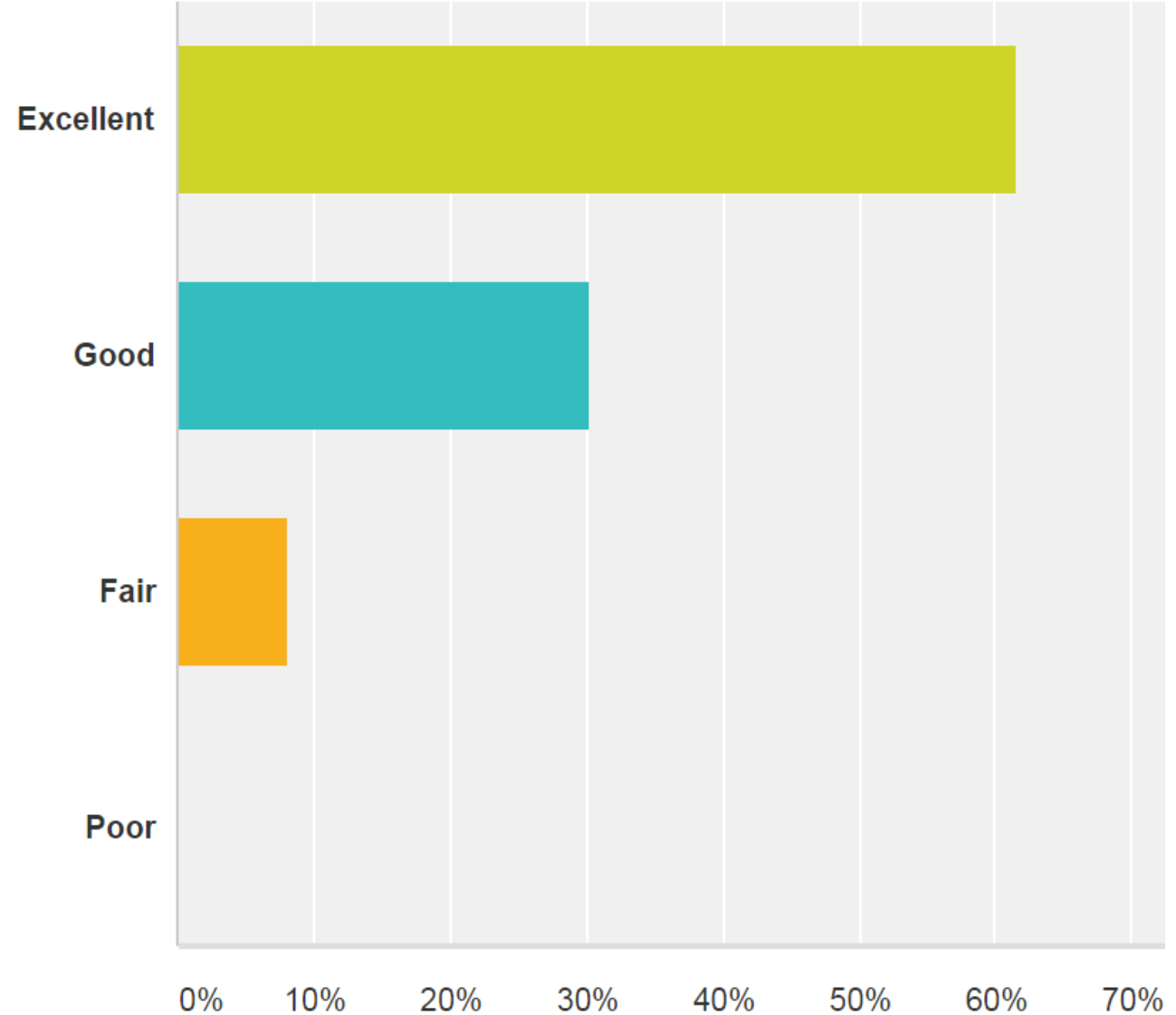
1. It was nice that more areas (lobby, upstairs, etc.) were available for discussions
2. Plenty of breaks with good snacks. The noise from them into the lecture halls was bad.
3. It would be nice to have more time, and longer sessions, to network.

5. Impression of Hotel

2017 Hyatt Regency



2016 Howard Hotel



5. Impression of Hotel – Location

1. I liked the conference and workshop rooms. One negative is that there are not many restaurants around the hotel. The transportation from the airport was not straightforward.
2. It was a bit far from restaurants/shopping/areas of interest. But they offered shuttle service to Kendall/Kenmore/Harvard Squares which was great.
3. Cambridge is very nice, but too far away from the T... How many attendees actually got a chance to get out into Cambridge?
4. The hotel space for the conference (talks, workshops, etc.) was fine. The actual location was not very convenient. I think we mostly expect the conference hotels to be more centrally located with better access to public transportation, restaurants, etc. The walk to Central Square wasn't horrible, but it's a bit further than is typical.

5. Impression of Hotel – Food

5. Breakfast was too early.
6. Lunch was terrible. Breakfast was okay. Eating in a tent was iffy.
7. Food was bad, especially for vegetarians.
8. too much muffin/cake. can have more fruits
9. The lunch on both days was disappointing for vegetarians - there was only salad.
10. The lunch provided was terrible. Other than that, the conference venue was ok.

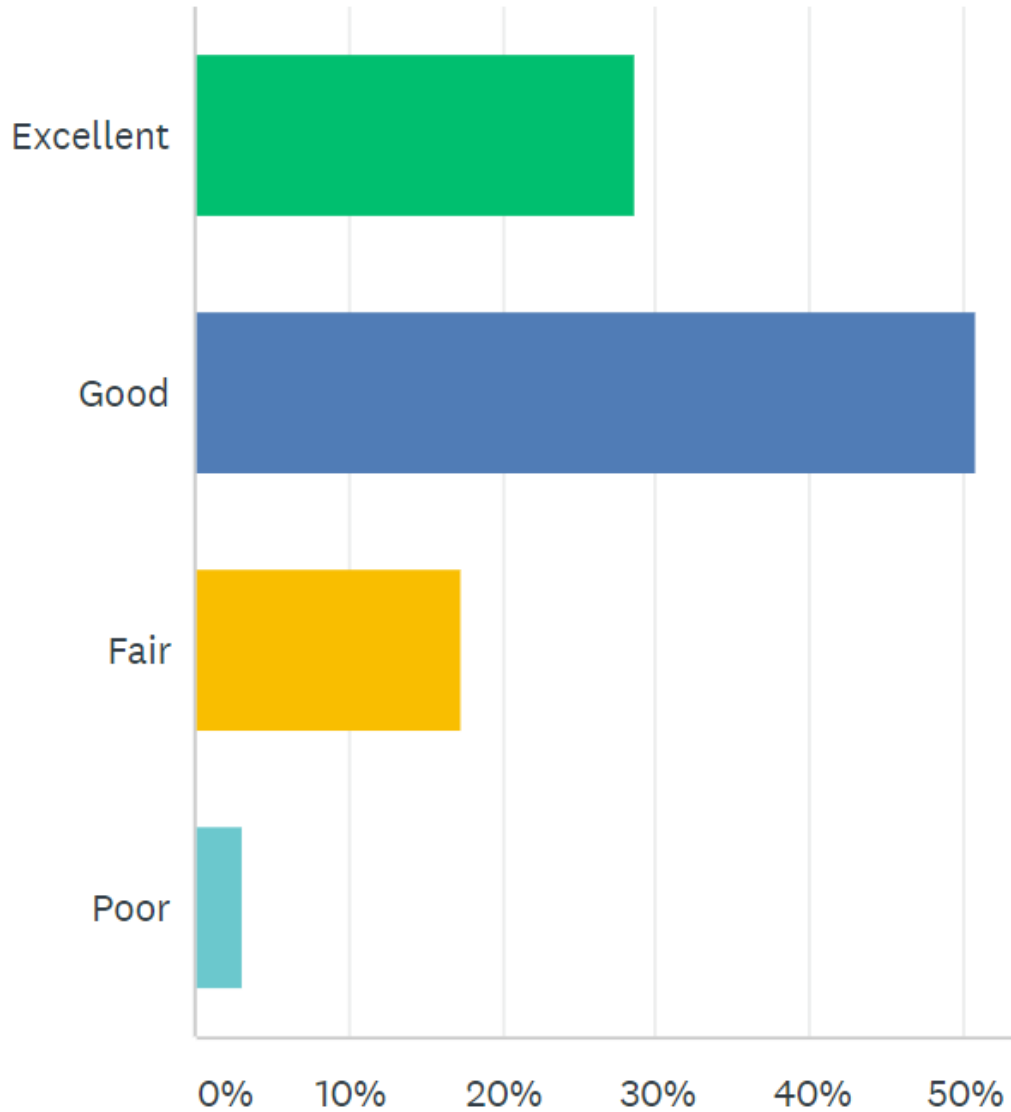
11. I got really sick from the food on Tuesday (was down all of Wednesday), which really soured my experience.
12. It seemed like a lot of people got sick from food. Since it seemed like the only thing in common among participants was eating the conference food, it seems like the hotel food may have been the issue.

5. Impression of Hotel – Other

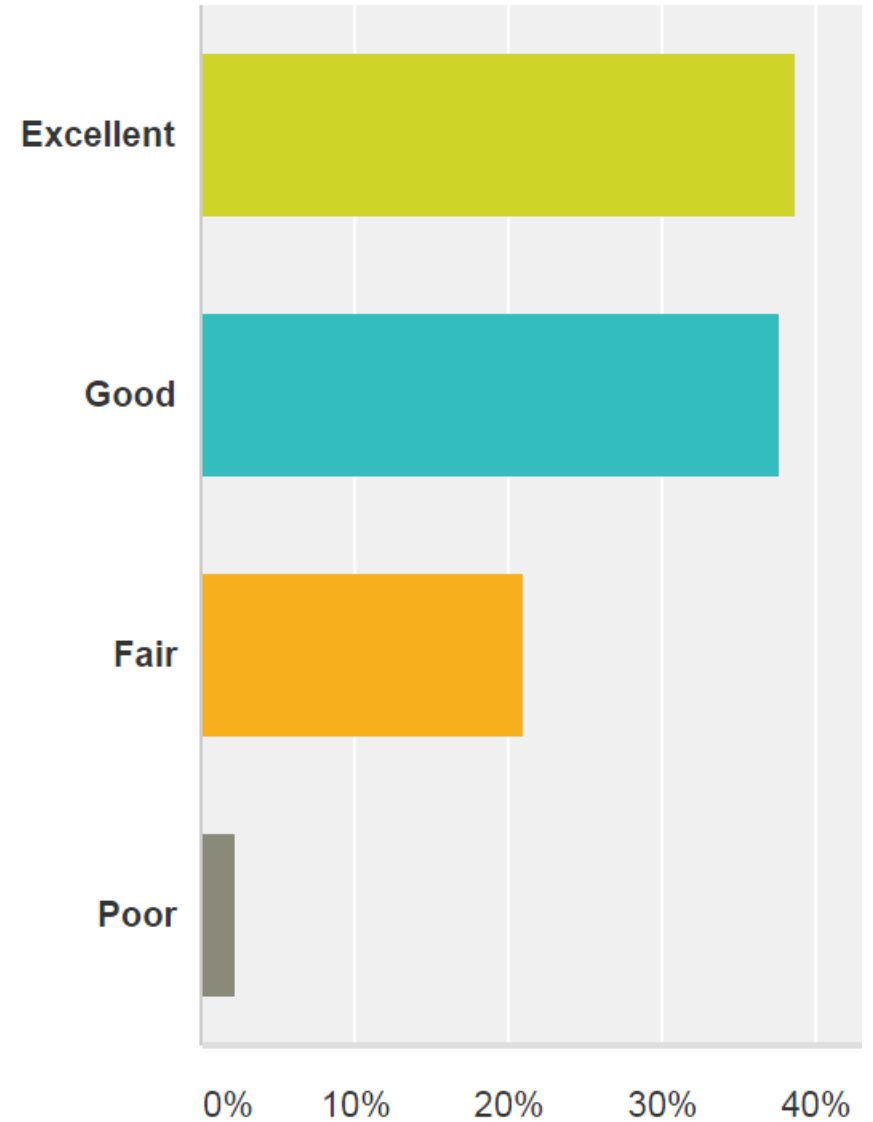
13. Lots of AV problems; couldn't hear most of the time
14. However, there seemed to be frequent projector problems. I'm not sure if the presenters or infrastructure is to blame.
15. The hotel rooms were in slight disrepair in some aspects.
16. After theft from an attendee's room I was uncomfortable leaving certain items (like my laptop) in my room. That was unfortunate. Otherwise hotel staff seemed very helpful.

6. Social Events

2017 Boston Aquarium, Evening Panel



2016 Shung Ye Museum, Natl Palace Museum?



6. Social Events – Comments 1

Many opposing
views

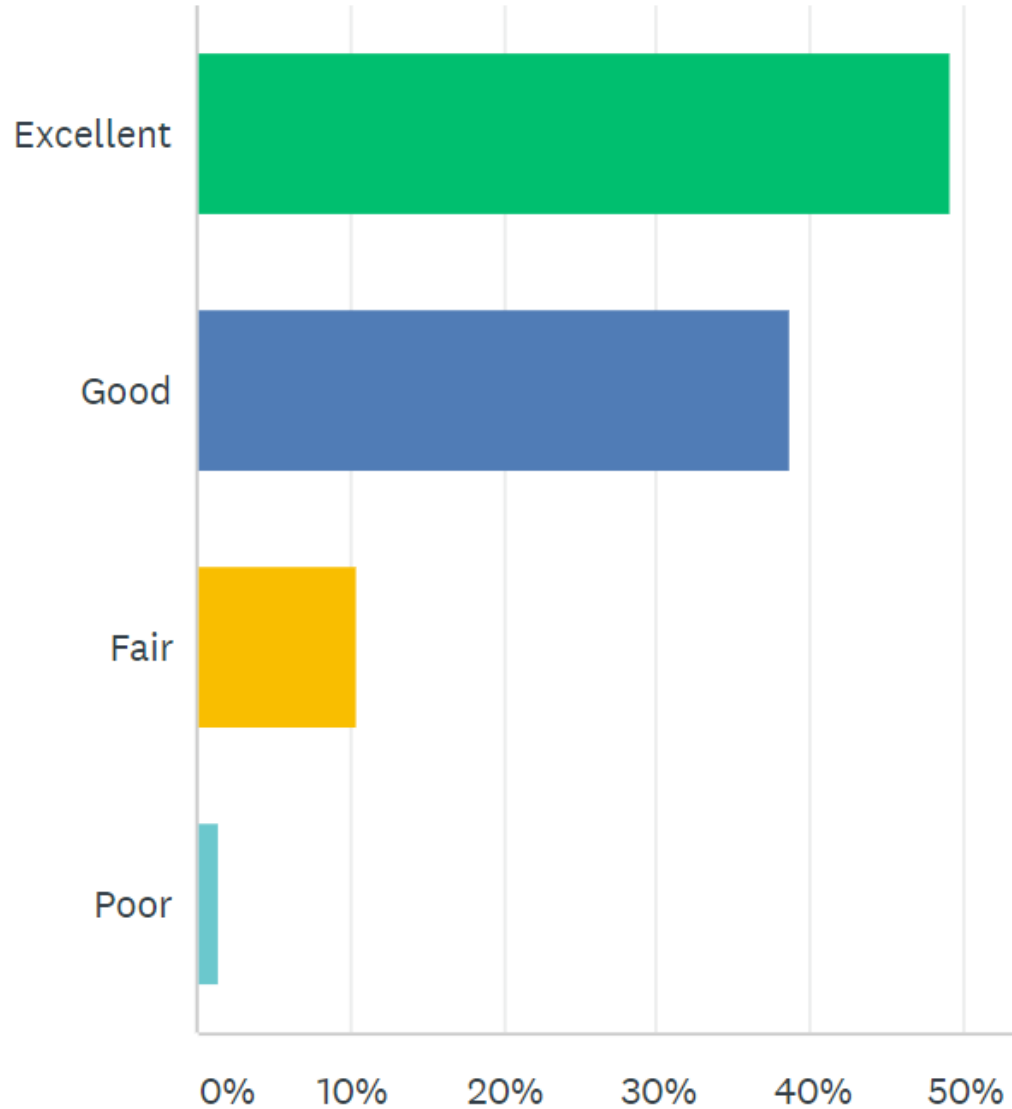
1. the aquarium is very cool.
2. Aquarium was super fun
3. Too dark.
4. Aquarium was neat, but the panel was quite dull. I understand the desire to reminisce at a milestone, but the panels offered nothing but reminiscing.
5. Aquarium was good but evening panel was lacking focus and found most of the discussion to not be very engaging.
6. really liked the panel
7. Panel wasn't that insightful. Always fun to hear Bob Colwell stories though.
8. The evening panel was not necessarily my favorite activity, but the venue for the events afterwards was awesome.
9. Aquarium was nice, but still a traditional banquet was better for networking
10. Panel session should be separate from the excursion. It left spouses stranded. Food was outstanding.
11. I very much enjoyed the evening panel. It was nice that we had a large space to walk around in the aquarium. There were quite a few people who got food poisoning from the dinner served at the aquarium

6. Social Events – Comments 2

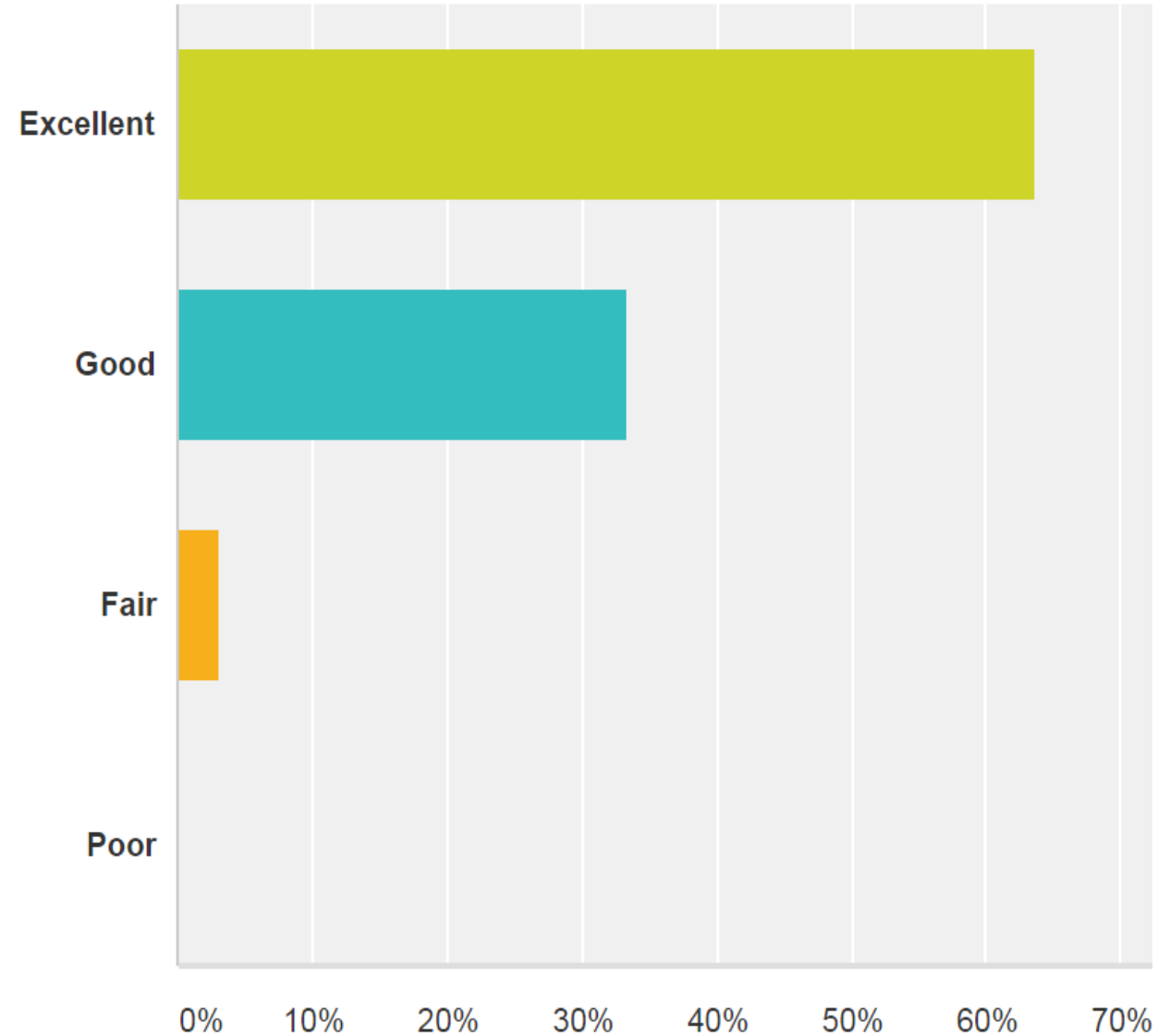
12. I didn't understand the need to book out the IMAX theater, we could have done the same at the conference hotel? Especially since it was just a panel and we barely needed the auditorium to be 3d screen equipped.
13. You should have separated the Aquarium from the Panel. I have two parts to the answer. First, rather than looking backward at 50 years of an industry dominated by men, gender diversity in the panel would have been valuable toward looking forward to the next 50 years of computer architecture. The Aquarium was an excellent location for the social event. With food and drink distributed throughout the venue, it was easy to explore the aquarium, and find pockets of folks all over the place.

7. City Chosen for Venue

2017 Cambridge / Boston



2016 Taipei



7. City Chosen for Venue

1. I like Boston.

Praise

2. Too pricey

Price

3. Hotels are too expensive

Proximity to Other Things

4. How much more expensive would it have been to stay in Boston? With walking distance restaurants, etc?

5. There was almost nothing within short walking distance of the hotel (e.g., ~20 minutes to get to food).

6. The internal structure of the Hyatt Regency Cambridge was great, but it is quite far from other dining locations and transit.

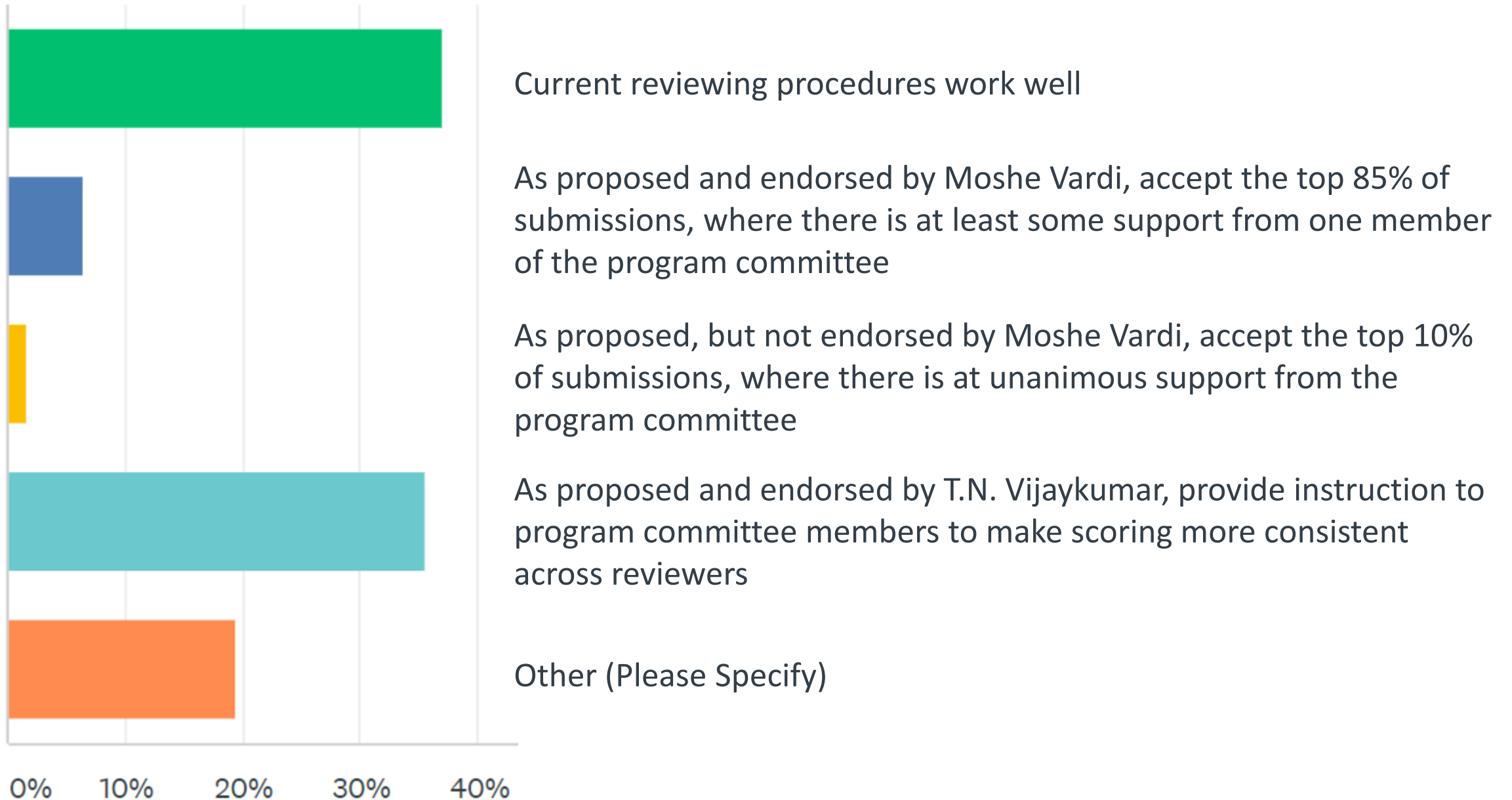
7. I would've liked a hotel that was a bit closer to the center to make it possible to take a walk there in the evenings.

8. Limited overflow hotel options.

9. Cold weather

Prefer Warmth

8. Views on Conference Reviewing



8. Reviewing: *Thumbs Up / Down on Current*

1. All of the above are problematic. We need more brainstorming to come up with a good process.
2. Both OPPC and ONPCs are a problem and should be addressed. **Thumbs Down**
3. Current review procedures are decent. Keep trying little experimental ideas. **Thumbs Up**
4. Current reviewing procedures are probably ok to me (I have no way to know; MICRO is very competitive), but the shepherding process should never be commanded by a direct competitor. Couldn't it be controlled by the PC instead?
5. The test theory says that any scoring about human's thoughts cannot be consistent, except the ones that ask how the scorer "reacted" to "a specific event". Given this, we should continue current procedures with the bit of un-biasing effort.
6. While I think the current reviewing process is already pretty good, I do had the feeling that some papers presented rather marginal improvements on current work, while other papers with more substantial improvements were rejected (note that this might be biased since I did not see all rejected papers).
7. Not familiar with current review process. **No Opinion**

8. Conference Reviewing: *Suggestions* – 1

8. Reviewers should be graded at the end of the review process
9. Instruct the reviewers to look for the differences among things and not for similarities. A reviewer should try to see the value in things. Progress is incremental most of the time :)
Shepherding helps always. Current review procedures are not bad. The comments are fair most of the time. The conclusion however is often wrong :) This is not good for our health and for the health of the community
10. I like current process and in theory more consistency in scoring. Suggest adding reviewers to papers where there is no consensus. PC votes are a failure of review process and unfair to authors
11. I do not think PC-wide voting works very well. Not enough time is allocated to each paper so that every PC member is aware of a paper's strengths and weaknesses. The current PC-wide voting tends to favor opinions of people who are vocal or make strong (but may not necessarily fair) arguments.

8. Conference Reviewing: *Suggestions* – 2

12. I like the revision model used recently, but not historically at MICRO
13. Accept top 10~20% for presentation, accept top 50% for poster. Include all in the proceedings.
14. At most k papers that cross a minimum bar. It cannot be the case that the current reviewing procedure works. The reviewers are complaining about load. The authors are complaining about bad reviews. It is time we moved to a different model that makes it easier for the reviewers to evaluate an idea -- thoroughly reviewed extended abstracts + shepherded full papers (multiple shepherds).
15. We have two problems: we are rejecting many good papers and we have too many papers in the conference. We need to figure out how to send the second tier of papers to another venue without forcing them to go through review again. Maybe a MICRO-TOPIC set of mini conferences after MICRO for GPU, memory etc.
16. I have no opinion, but there may be a better way to survey this question. Are all these options mutually exclusive? Perhaps a "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree" rating would have been more appropriate.

9. Most important idea to emerge in microarchitecture since 2000 – p. 1

1. Heterogeneity is essential.
2. heterogeneity everywhere
3. Specialization for energy efficiency
4. specializing hardware to suit particular application execution due to the power wall and moore's law slowing down

4 Votes:
Heterogeneity

5. SIMT execution
6. Massive thread parallelism in GPUs
7. Massively multi-core architectures, such as GPUs.

3 Votes:
GPU Compute

8. Perceptron branch prediction.
9. neural branch prediction
10. Probably the TAGE branch predictor, although that is not a new area if work. Neural networks are probably the more important area.

3 Votes:
Branch Prediction

9. Most important idea to emerge in microarchitecture since 2000 – p.2

1. thread-level speculation
2. Runahead execution.

2 Votes: Thread-Level Speculation

3. Hardware for Machine Learning

1 Vote: Hardware for ML

4. Approximate computing

1 Vote: Approximate Computing

5. Non volatile memory that can be accessed directly using processor loads and stores.

1 Vote: Non-Volatile Load-Store Mem

6. N/A

Other Musings

7. I've been in the area for more than 20 years now and I know better :) There are plenty of ideas that either had direct impact in practice or steered the pot and lead to others.
8. Compared to processor, memory technology evolved at a slower pace. Additionally, since we moved from single to multicore architectures, it became even more notorious that memories are the bottleneck. For many systems and applications, the good and old von Neumann model doesn't make much sense anymore.

10. Other Comments – Praise

1. Jamie and Hillary (and their team) did an amazing job, kudos to them!
2. Thank you to the organizers including the local volunteers and the PC and program committee for your time and effort.
3. Extremely well run conference, except for the militants

10. Other Comments – Diversity

4. It was great to see that Margaret and others started a diversity conversation. I hope that there will be concrete action items that come out from the important conversation.
5. Thank you for attention to gender diversity in the session chairs, PC, and other committees. The lack of diversity across the set of panelists and keynotes was a glaring omission.
6. We need to rapidly see concrete action items and deadlines from the diversity discussion if the current leadership is to retain credibility. This is very important.
7. A few women spoke loudly about their lack of representation. If justified, we need to do something about it. But first we need to gather the relevant data that proves or disproves their hypothesis. I believe Bill Mangione-Smith and Matt Farrens have attempted to do this, or at least are working on doing this.
8. Helping and promoting some specific group of people is not a true support for minorities. Concretely, supporting "women" very often means supporting those who "were born as women who are happy to be women and female". This categorization makes other minorities (e.g. LGBTQ people) struggle a lot. We should never categorize nor average people when we talk about minorities.

10. Other Comments – Panels

9. The "Legends of MICRO" was a waste of time. Given the large registration fees that we're paying, I expect good technical content for my dollars. The Legends panel had basically zero technical content and was just a bunch of old people reminiscing. This might have been a fine side session at the aquarium ("meet us by the penguins if you'd like to hear stories of the old days of MICRO"), but I felt it basically had zero technical value. I heard comments from organizers worried about Margaret's statement somehow ruining the panel. No, you guys ruined it yourselves.
10. There is no question for the "Legends of Micro" so I just write it here. I want to give a fair/poor to that panel. I am not sure if all speakers are ready to share their stories with the audience. The most interesting part is just how the logo was created. Please consider to how to relate it to the broad audience if there is another one in the future MICRO.
11. The panel on Monday afternoon was a complete waste of time. The best part was when Margaret stood up and voiced the very legitimate concerns that women were excluded from the panel. None of the panelists added anything of value to the conference with their comments. If there is another panel at a future MICRO, it should have relevant technical content. The old white men can reminisce in a room by themselves on their own dime during the excursion.

10. Other Comments – Program / Organization

12. personally, would like to see more cpu uarch at micro
13. throughout all of the sessions, i was expecting more senior persons attending presentations, and more people attending in general. it looked like the main thing was happening outside, with people chatting, while inside the rooms, the presenters missed some quality questions and discussion
14. Have more graduate students involved with the organization of the workshops/conference

10. Other Comments – Food and AV

15. Veg food during lunch @ conference was terrible. Registration costs are high but still there is no veg food. It is really unacceptable.
16. The vegetarian options at lunch were very disappointing. I wish there had been some actual protein beyond chickpeas.
17. The lunch on both days were of poor quality. I would expect a much better lunch at a prestigious conference like MICRO.
18. Quality of video projection was not as good as I would have hoped -- Even with the lights turned off above the screens, the display was kind of dark.
19. It would be better to increase the font of affiliation on the ID cards, especially for the industry folks, so that students can better find them and do the networking. This time the fonts were too small.

The End